

# DEER PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT



## ANNUAL REPORT 2011

# **MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE GREGORY L. GRIGG**

The 2011 Annual Report provides snapshots of our employees “in action” through the year. Some of the accomplishments I am most proud of include community service, employee development opportunities, the establishment of the Crime Control Prevention District, new graphics for police vehicles, and the successful Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) full scale exercise.

Two Citizen Police Academies were held in 2011 with a total of 34 graduates, the Business Watch Program was initiated with 126 businesses participating (approximately 400 by year-end) and the Volunteer Handicap Parking Program was continued with a total of sixty eight (68) citations written. The Department stayed in close contact with the community this year with quarterly Beat meetings, National Night Out, attendance at many community events, and through response to many issues raised by citizens of our community.

In 2011 police department employees received thirteen (13) “thank you” letters from citizens. One in particular from Ricky Minton has been included in this year’s report as it exemplifies the dedication and service our employees perform day in and day out. Officers Anthony Kuchinski and Thomas Goodwin were recognized before City Council for saving the life of Elmer Cunningham in January 2011.

Lt. Bryan Magee retired in 2011 after 21 years of service to the City of Deer Park. Three police officers, one Telecommunicator, and one Public Service Attendant were hired. Telecommunicator Jenny Garcia transferred to the Deer Park Municipal Court during the year.

Employee development was emphasized in 2011. All employees of the department spent two days in “Integrity-Centered Leadership” conducted by James W. Dodson, a retired Commander from the Odessa Police Department. Phase 2 of the Mentoring Program was initiated with three police officers and one telecommunicator spending a year in the program learning the role of a first line supervisor.

The three day, full scale LEPC exercise was the culmination of a three year cycle. The exercise included more than 500 participants from over 25 agencies. The exercise tested our ability to use ICS Command structure, NIMS protocols, and WebEOC as a communication and documentation platform during critical incidents.

Traffic issues remained a priority in 2011. Although STEP grant money was cut from \$70,000 in 2010 to \$23,814 in 2011, regularly budgeted department overtime was used to make up the difference. Traffic efforts also included 31 Child Passenger Check Stations, and coordinating a warrant round-up with Municipal Court.

The citizens of Deer Park graciously voted for a Crime Control Prevention District in 2011. These monies will allow for the purchase of much needed equipment and technology, three additional Telecommunicators, a Crime Prevention Officer, and the crowning jewel, the re-establishment of our gun range.

We could not have achieved our success and achievements without the support of Mayor Riddle, the City Council, and City Manager James J. Stokes. Thank you for your support.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with the dedicated professionals of this department. As a department we are blessed to work for the outstanding, supportive citizens of Deer Park. That support was demonstrated most tangibly this year with the vote to establish the Crime Control Prevention District. I dedicate this year’s Annual Report to the citizens of Deer Park.



Ricky Minton  
226 Wall Drive  
Palestine, Texas 75803  
Tel: (903) 373-4947  
Email: minton@live.com

July 19, 2011

Chief Gregory Grigg  
Deer Park Police Department  
2911 Center Street  
Deer Park, Texas 77536

Re: Alexandra Garcia

Chief Grigg:

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of Marcel and Martha Cheatum, Alexis Garcia, and Alexandra Garcia to thank you for your help in finding Alexandra.

Alexandra was taken from her grandmother, Martha, on June 27, 2011 by Alexandra's mother, Elizabeth Lugo Salinas who, on June 20, 2011, lost custody in a District Court in Anderson County and did not have the authority to remove Alexandra or keep her from Marcel and Martha. Elizabeth never showed for the scheduled hearing.

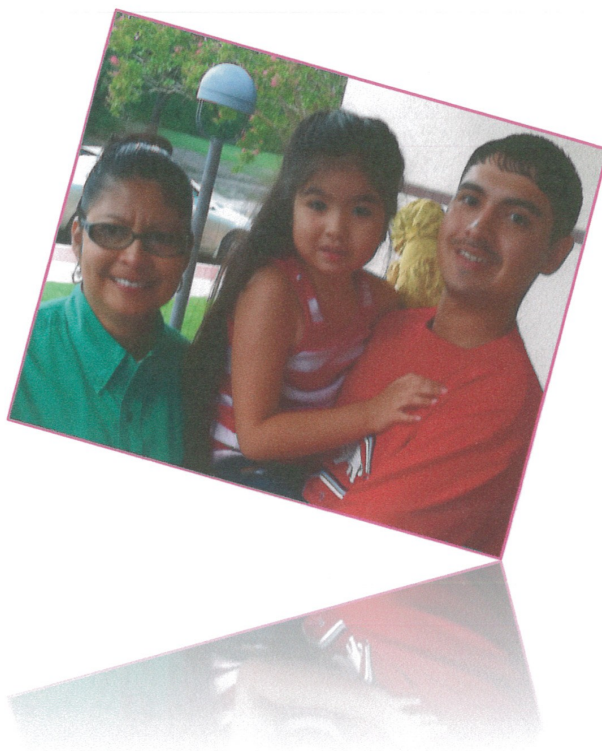
For ten long days, we searched. We followed every lead and all resulted in a dead end. We begged and pleaded with every police department in every city we searched and could not receive any help. That is, until I made contact with you on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

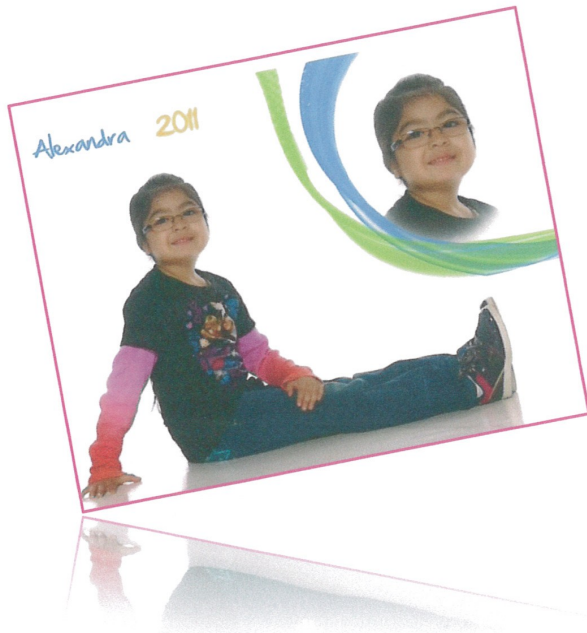
You took the time to read the court order from the viewpoint of how you could help, rather than how you could avoid becoming involved, which most police officers had done up until that time. When you returned my call, you said, "I can help." Those will probably be the most important three words anyone will ever say to me because, in this case, it was your help that resulted in Alexandra coming home.

You then forwarded the case to Detective Anderson who did more than I ever expected him to do. He questioned me for several minutes, by telephone, and said, "I'll call you back." Two hours passed and, I'll admit, I was worried that he wasn't going to call. Then, the telephone rang and he gave me news that I, honestly, did not want to hear. Elizabeth wasn't in Deer Park or Pasadena. He had searched their apartment, with the occupant's permission, and they had explained to him that Elizabeth was now in Lufkin at a women's shelter.

Detective Anderson was sure that this information was credible. I'll admit, I doubted him. But, it was the best information we had so, we traveled to Lufkin. We did not find the same caring, compassionate assistance as we had in Deer Park, however, and were forced to go home not knowing if Alexandra was in Lufkin or not.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, ten days after Alexandra was first reported as missing, the Anderson County Sheriff's Department finally issued a warrant for Elizabeth's arrest. I remember telling the deputy, "Deer Park Police say that she is





in Lufkin at a women's shelter, but I don't think she is." The investigator said he would contact Lufkin and have them attempt to serve the arrest warrant at the women's shelter just in case.

At 4:19 P.M., two hours after we left the Anderson County Sheriff's Department, my telephone rang. The Anderson County investigator says, as soon as I answer, "Ricky, get Martha and go to the Lufkin Police Department, Alexandra is waiting on y'all." My first words when I hanged up the telephone were, "I can't believe I doubted that detective."

The drive to Lufkin is over an hour from where we live, and during that drive, the only thing we could say was, "If it wasn't for Deer Park Police, we would have never found her." Sure, Anderson County issued an arrest warrant and Lufkin served that warrant, but it was the work of you and Detective Anderson, which made the other pieces fall into place.

What we have learned since Alexandra came home is, in a word, horrifying. Elizabeth, who is not a legal United States citizen, had planned to take Alexandra to Mexico. In fact, the women's shelter in Lufkin was the final stop while she awaited her brother to assist her in returning to Mexico, where he currently lives. Alexandra was forced to sit in the living room of the apartment that your Detectives searched, in the dark, while her mother was with her boyfriend. We don't believe that Alexandra suffered any physical or sexual abuse while there, but she suffered tremendous psychological abuse from day one. She was made to believe that Martha, the person she loves so much, did not want her and that her father, Alexis, was trying to kill them both. In fact, she forced Alexandra to repeat these lies to various police officers from Pasadena to Lufkin as well as staff at the women's shelter. Alexandra, as smart as she was, realized at some point that we were looking for her and remained hopeful. In her words, "I knew you were coming daddy."

I would like to, once again, say thanks. Marcel, Martha, and Alexis are thankful. And, most importantly, Alexandra is thankful. Let's not forget to thank any other officer or detective that may have been involved that I haven't named specifically.

On the website for the Deer Park Police Department, in your message, you write, "The Mission of this Department is to provide the highest quality of police service so as to improve the quality of life for the community of Deer Park." I know, from experience, that this is true, and not only for the community of Deer Park, but for people like me, who have never had the pleasure of visiting your community. The members of that community are blessed to have people, such as you and Detective Anderson serving them in their local police department. It's absolutely amazing what was accomplished in just hours after your department became aware of the situation. After nine days, we had no information and within three hours, Detective Anderson had the location of Alexandra.

In closing, the photograph at the beginning of this letter was taken on the steps of the Lufkin Police Department on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:56 PM, moments after Alexandra was back with her family.

July 19, 2011  
Chief Gregory Griggs

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As I said, we couldn't have done it without your help.

Sincerely,



Ricky Minton

cc: Detective Anderson  
Deer Park Police Department  
2911 Center Street  
Deer Park, Texas 77536

Honorable Wayne Riddle  
City of Deer Park Mayor  
710 East San Augustine  
Deer Park, Texas 77536

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Lieutenant Bryan Magee  
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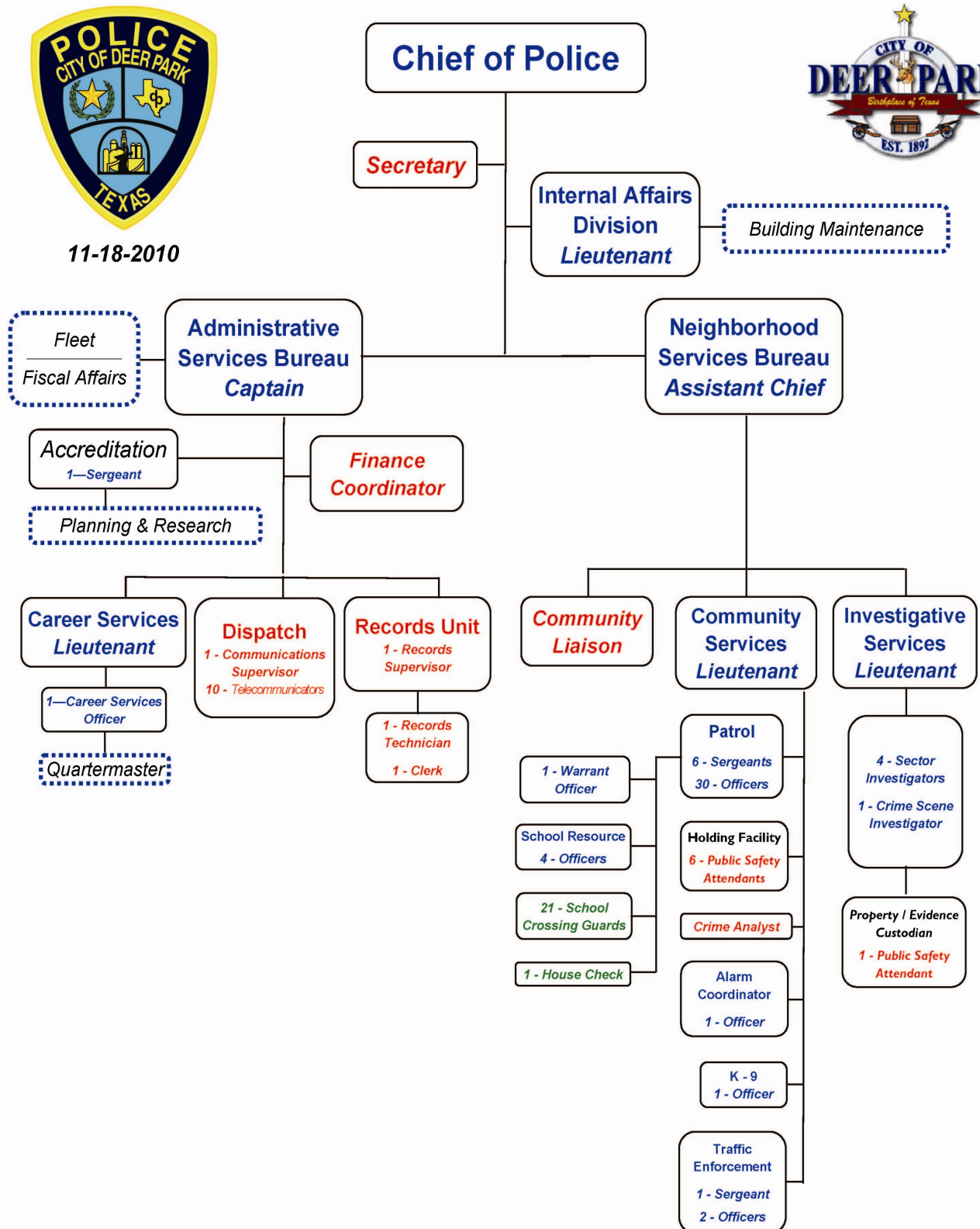
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# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# BLAST FROM THE PAST



# In my twenty plus (20+) years in law enforcement I have learned.....

"That good people sometimes do bad things and that bad people continue to do bad things!!!!!"

Officer Eddie Pereira

"I have learned that things are not always as they first appear. In order to keep public trust we have an obligation to seek out the facts and thoroughly complete our assigned tasks without personal bias. If this cannot be done then do not become a Police Officer."

Lieutenant John Yettevich

"That Deer Park has a lot of interesting and entertaining characters!"

Crime Analyst Lucie Corley  
20 yrs of service

"When you believe everything is going good, don't say a thing; it might jinx you and all #\$\$% will break loose!"

Lt. Wade Conner  
22 yrs of service

"I've learned that when I think I've seen it all and nothing else could surprise me; I'm wrong. I've learned that some people are capable of horrendous cruelty and others possess a kindness and compassion beyond comprehension. I've learned the importance of having the support of family and true friends. And I've learned that even when you do the right thing, it doesn't always turn out the way it should."

Captain Sharon Massey  
33 yrs of service

"That I didn't realize we lived in Peyton Place until I started working here!"

Officer Doug Nettles  
24 yrs of service

"Just when you are about to give up hope for society, someone performs a good gesture."

Officer Merv Howard  
32 yrs of service

"In my 20+ years in police work, I have learned that you meet a lot of people, but you can never remember their name. You come across people that know you as Officer (insert your name), however you don't have a clue as to who they are or where you have seen them before. I could actually write a book of all the things I have learned during my career as a police officer, but with limited time and space, I'll just leave it at that."

Officer Jack Bounds  
29 yrs of service

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Administrative Services Bureau is responsible for the administrative and support functions of the Police Department and is commanded by Captain Sharon W. Massey—a twenty-eight year veteran of the Department. The Bureau oversees the Career Services Division which consists of a Lieutenant and an officer who are responsible for recruiting, training and equipment supplies; the Records Unit, which is made up of three non-sworn personnel who handle records maintenance, storage and retrieval as well as compliance with the Public Information Act; the Communications Division, which is staffed by ten full time dispatchers and a Supervisor, and the Accreditation Unit which is managed by a Sergeant who is responsible for ensuring that the department is in compliance with all applicable CALEA standards. These functions are described in greater detail in the individual Division and Unit reports. In addition, the Administrative Services Bureau is responsible for the management of all fleet operations, overseeing the Finance Coordinator who handles payroll and time keeping, as well as policy development, budget, and grant application and management.



**CAPTAIN S. W. MASSEY**

During 2011, the Department received several grants, as follows:

Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	\$4,165
Law Enforcement Education	\$4,575.50
Selective Traffic Enforcement	\$49,000
National Rifle Association	\$761.70

The department also seized \$16,271 through the asset seizure and forfeiture process during 2010/2011.

The biggest accomplishment of the Administrative Services Bureau this year was to formulate a two year plan and budget for the newly establish Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD). The CCPD provides the opportunity to implement a sales and use tax, in this case,  $\frac{1}{4}$  %, to finance the district, upon voter approval, which was obtained in May 2011. The estimated amount of revenue that will be generated during the first year of the CCPD is \$833,333. The funds will be used for the acquisition of personnel, new equipment, technology, and a gun range. The first purchase will be for a much needed, new radio system for the Communications Unit.

# CAREER SERVICES & RECRUITING

The Deer Park Police Department has some of the most stringent hiring qualifications in the State of Texas. The Career Services Division is tasked with recruiting individuals who meet these high standards. In order to be hired and prior to any initial testing; a successful Police Officer candidate must start the process with a Bachelors degree and an impeccable reputation.



Lt. John Yettevich

The Career Services Division is staffed by Lieutenant John Yettevich and Officer Sam Jammass. Lieutenant Yettevich has been a licensed Peace Officer since 1990 and has served with the Deer Park Police Department for 20 years. His previous assignments include: Patrol, Field Training Supervisor, Instructor, Detectives and Crime Scene Investigator. The Career Services Lieutenant is responsible for budgeting, tracking, reporting and overseeing all of the internal training and coordination of all external training. The employees of the Police Department completed approximately 10,500 hours of training during 2011. The Career Services Lieutenant presides over the Training Advisory Board, chairs the Awards Committee and the Family Assistance Committee. He is also a representative on the City's Safety Committee.



Officer I. "Sam" Jammass

Officer Jammass has been with the Deer Park Police Department for over ten years. Jammass has served in both the patrol and detective divisions. The recruiting officer position is a very demanding position; the recruiter is responsible for actively recruiting qualified candidates, processing the numerous applications received, and conducting testing and background investigations. He is also responsible for procurement & distribution of uniforms and equipment for the entire Department.

**Retirements:**  
Bryan Magee- Lieutenant

**Transfers:**  
Jenny Garcia—Telecommunicator to Municipal Court

**Promotions:**  
None

**Recruiting:**

One Police Officer was hired under the Lateral entry program. During 2011 the Career Services Division processed 217 applications for positions throughout the Department. Of those applicants, the following positions were filled:

1 House check person  
3 Police Officers  
1 Public Safety Attendant  
4 School Crossing Guards

# ACCREDITATION

The Deer Park Police Department has been an accredited agency through the Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 2006. Being CALEA accredited can limit an agency and its employees liability and risk exposure because it demonstrates that internationally recognized standards for law enforcement have been met, as verified by a team of independent, outside CALEA-trained assessors. Every three years, CALEA re-assesses the agency to ensure compliance with all applicable standards. The next assessment will be in late August 2012, and upon successful completion, should qualify the department for an Award of Accreditation with Excellence, an honor bestowed upon agencies that have maintained compliance for three accreditation cycles and exhibited a commitment to accreditation within the Department. The accreditation process is overseen by Accreditation Manager, Sergeant D. J. Rouen, who tracks compliance to ensure that the Department is ready for the next onsite assessment.

We are fortunate enough to have two CALEA assessors employed by the Department, Assistant Chief Ken Findley and Captain Sharon Massey. In order to ensure the continued quality of the process and proofs, all proofs of compliance were reviewed by our own assessors. This annual self-review of our progress and quality helps not only to ensure our compliance, but allows for corrections of any problems in a timely manner.



Sgt. Danny Rouen, Accreditation Manager

.YOU MIGHT BE A COP IF ..... People shout, "I didn't do it!" when you walk into a room and think they are being hugely funny and original.



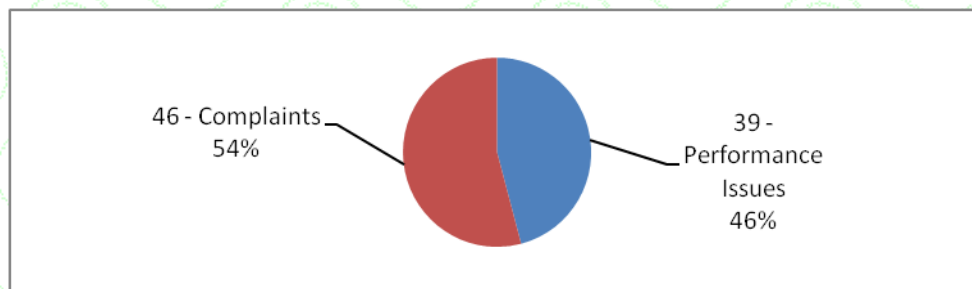
# INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Internal Affairs Division is responsible for maintaining records of and /or investigating internal or external accusations against agency personnel, and compiling and making available to the public and agency personnel annual statistical summaries based upon these records.

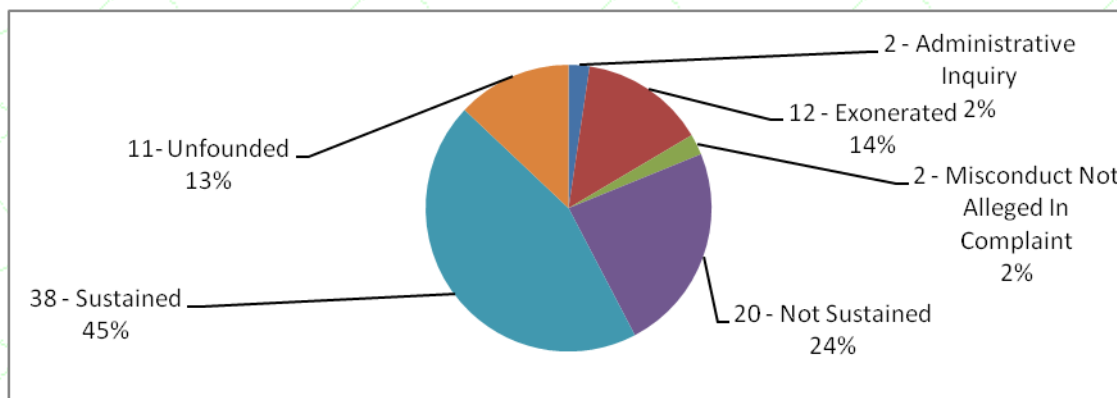
**Complaints** – Any allegation(s) made by any person outside the Department, who has a criticism of the Department, the services provided by the Department, or believes any Departmental employee has been involved in improper conduct that is not a Performance Issue.

**Performance Issues** – Behavior discovered or witnessed by supervisors, or that is reported to them by other members of the department, that is directly related to performance. A report from another employee will be treated as a performance issue when it is not behavior against the complaining witness, substantive misconduct, or criminal activity. Examples of performance issues include, but are not limited to: abuse of sick time; internal observations of discourtesy or rudeness that do not include statements regarding race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or disability; failure to properly complete required duties; improper or inaccurate investigation of a crime or crash report; inferior work quality; minor violations of city or department policies / procedures; missed assignments; operation or care of City property; poor employee attitude; tardiness; and, traffic offenses not involving an accident.

Categories of allegations made against agency personnel in 2011:



Number and type of dispositions for internal affair investigations during 2011:



The Chief of Police, at the conclusion of a complaint's administrative adjudication, notifies in writing the employee and the complainant involved of the findings.



Lt. Wade Keeney is the current commander of the Internal Affairs Division. Before becoming a law enforcement officer, he served in the United States Marine Corps. He has been a Texas Peace Officer since October 1982 and has held assignments in: Patrol; Jail; Emergency Communications; Traffic & Accident; Detectives; Personnel; Training; and, Recruiting. He has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Houston, Downtown and a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. He is also a graduate of the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute and the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. Individuals who wish to register a complaint may contact him at [wkeeney@deerparktx.org](mailto:wkeeney@deerparktx.org) or 281-930-2103.

# RECORDS UNIT



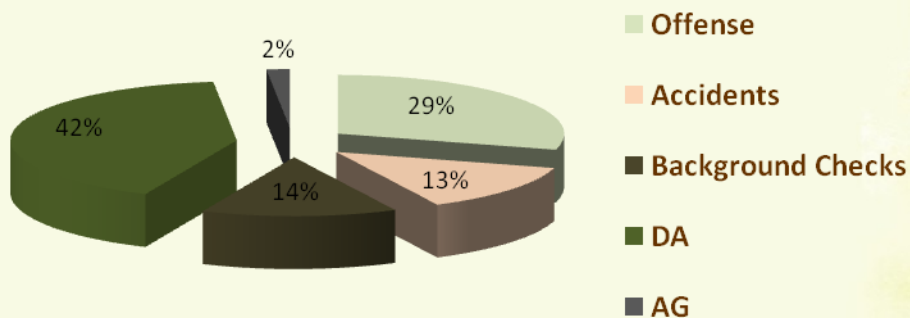
S. Moblo, P. Martin, K. Bass

The records unit is staffed by three full time employees who have many responsibilities including: assisting the public, handling public information requests in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act, and retaining departmental records in accordance with the Texas State Library Retention Schedules.

## Requests

The records unit processes requests for information on a case by case basis to ensure compliance with the Texas Public Information Act. The unit has averaged approximately 2700 requests per year for the past two years.

## 2011 Public Information Requests



Total requests for information in 2011 dropped four percent, while accident reports dropped 28%. The overall drop in requests can be contributed almost entirely to the availability of accident reports online. While the department reported on nearly the same number of accidents in 2010 and 2011, the availability of accident reports online allowed requestors to conveniently print free reports from their own computers.

### **Attorney General Opinions**

Requests for opinions are submitted to the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of requestors when the department seeks to withhold confidential information. Opinion rulings do not guarantee the release of information. Rulings do ensure compliance with the Texas Public Information Act as overseen by the Office of the Attorney General. Information on opinions and the Texas Public Information Act can be found at [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us). Requests for Attorney General rulings increased from 28 in 2010 to 39 in 2011.

### **Expunctions**

The records unit handles court orders to expunge records, as well as court orders to seal records. Expunctions may vary slightly, but generally call for the obliteration of all references to an individual listed in the order in regards to a specified offense.

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### **Retention Schedules**

The Texas State Library maintains schedules that indicate the minimum amount of time a governmental body has to retain records before they can be destroyed. The Records unit works in conjunction with the City Secretary's Office to ensure compliance with retention schedule guidelines.

### **Online Reports**

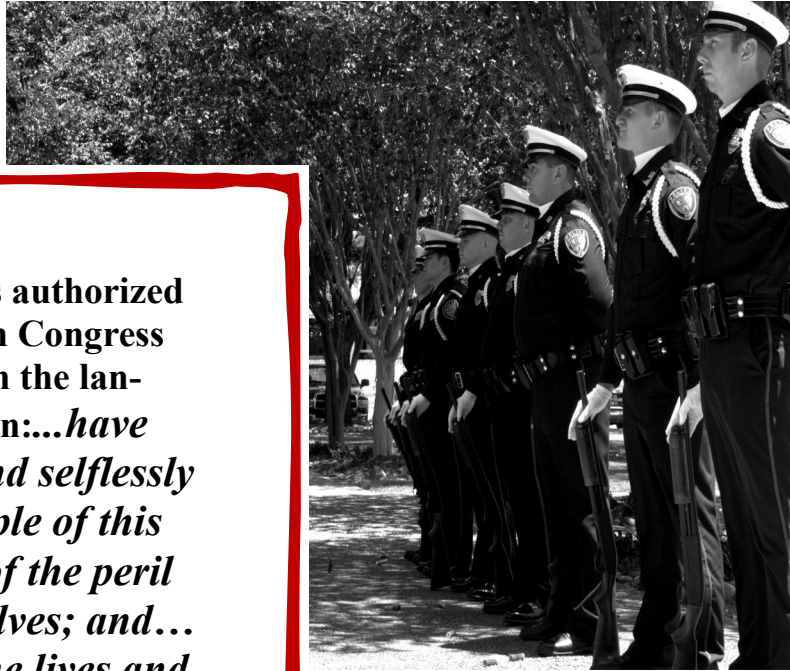
Accident reports and incident reports are available at no cost at <http://p2c.deerparktx.gov>. Statistical information on reportable offenses has also been compiled in map and graph format at [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com).



# Peace Officers Memorial

May 16, 2011

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15<sup>th</sup> as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The calendar week which includes May 15<sup>th</sup> was proclaimed National Police Week.



The proclamation was authorized by a joint resolution in Congress to honor those who, in the language of the Resolution: *...have worked devotedly and selflessly in behalf of the people of this Nation, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves; and... have safeguarded the lives and property of their fellow Americans; and... by the enforcement of our laws... have given our country internal freedom from fear of the violence and civil disorder that is presently affecting other nations; and... by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts have earned the gratitude of the Republic.*

Law Enforcement Agencies throughout the country have established a tradition of honoring those who have served during this venerated period, extending special and respectful acknowledgement for those have fallen in the line of duty.

A somber ceremony in any event, memorial services held in 2011 were particularly poignant.

2011 marked the 10 year anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>, the deadliest day in law enforcement history. A reported 72 officers lost their lives in the line of duty during the terrorist attacks. An increase in law enforcement deaths in 2010 continued through 2011. The final count of law enforcement deaths for 2011, according to the National Law Enforcement

Officers Memorial Fund web page, was 177. This number is approximately 16% higher than in 2010 and 42% higher than in 2009.

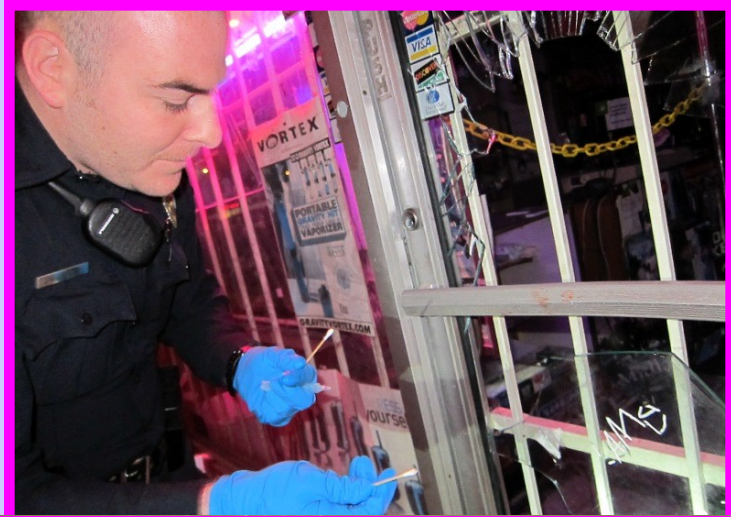


The Deer Park Police Department recognized National Peace Officers Memorial Day with a ceremony on May 16, 2011. The traditional service included the participation of the Deer Park Police Department's Honor Guard, a vocal performance by Susan Mele of the Art Park Players, as well as a rendition of *Taps* and *Amazing Grace*.

Chief of Police Gregory L. Grigg spoke during the ceremony. In addition to commemorating those who have died in service to others, officers were encouraged to strive to ensure their own safety in the performance of their duties.



The Police Officers Memorial ceremony serves as annual opportunity for Deer Park citizens and employees to pay respects to those who serve, to memorialize those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and as a special reminder of the privileges, prosperity and peace we enjoy as Deer Park and American citizens through the efforts of our law enforcement officers.



# COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



The COMMUNICATIONS CENTER is responsible for dispatching Deer Park Police, Fire and EMS units and is staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The unit is supervised by Cyndi Sauter, who has ten Communications Officers under her command. In 2011, Emily Bounds was hired as the newest Telecommunicator and Jenny Tolleson Garcia transferred out of the unit to the Municipal Court.

The Deer Park Police Department is also a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for 9-1-1. The Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Network logged just over 14,000 incoming calls answered through 9-1-1 for Deer Park Police Department. There were also over 2,400 abandoned calls (9-1-1 hang up calls).

Telecommunicators (TCOs) are required to be certified by the State of Texas (Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced) as well as obtain and maintain many other certifications. Certifications include but are not limited to Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD). With the ever changing needs of society and technology, training needs are reviewed annually and training is conducted through 9-1-1 services as well as earning Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Education and Training (T.C.L.E.O.S.E.) hours to meet those needs. All TCOs are required to complete on-line training through FEMA for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to be consistent with the needs of interoperability, which allows for smoother communications with other agencies during major events. In 2011, Telecommunicators utilized local, off-site, and on-line training to log training hours.

The second week of April is National Telecommunicator Week. As the Communications Supervisor, this has to be my favorite week of the year. During this week, a luncheon is held to honor and recognize the women & men in this profession for a job well done. The annual luncheon, implemented by the late Chief Bill Young, was held at the Battleground Golf Course restaurant with a slide show of the TCOs activities over the previous year. In March of 2011, TCO Hope Buck received the Employee of the Month award and was recognized at our annual luncheon by City Manager, James Stokes.

The Communications Unit also participated in a full scale drill with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (L.E.P.C.) that was held over 2 and half days and included multiple agencies and jurisdictions.

In 2011, TCO Jenny Tolleson-Garcia received the Silent Partner award from the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department for her efforts and support of the fire department.

# COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM

The newly revised Communications Training Program was implemented in 2011. The revisions provide more concentrated teaching in each area of responsibility in which the incoming recruit is trained. The Communications Supervisor, Cyndi Sauter, is responsible for the oversight of the program. Trainers, or CTOs, are selected based on their experience, job knowledge, interpersonal skills and overall job performance. They are also required to attend a qualified training program to learn the skills necessary to train incoming dispatchers.



L to R: CTO Brandi Brumley, CTO Kathy Cobb, Emily Bounds, CTO Hope Buck, CTO H. Rendon

Jarrett  
Grundman



Zulma  
Veliz



Ethel Ridgeway & Clayton Hall

The CTO is responsible for teaching, mentoring and evaluating the progress of the trainee. Areas of training include jurisdictional boundaries, computer systems, Fire/EMS/EMD protocols, city ordinances and departmental policies, information processing and relay, problem solving and decision making and TCIC/NCIC and TLETS/NLETS policies. The CTO program is an intense hands on 16 week program that serves as a strong foundation for the continued growth of the Communications Unit.

In 2011, we had one dispatcher complete the program and we have had one CTO depart the Communications unit to move into another city department.

# NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES BUREAU

As evidenced throughout this report, members of the Neighborhood Services Bureau worked diligently during 2011 to enhance existing community partnerships and build new ones. It was encouraging to see the response from the community as it joined in a mutual effort to thwart crime and make Deer Park a safer place to live. Particularly successful was the creation and implementation of the Business Watch program that was created to address industrial burglaries and thefts. Approximately 350-400 businesses have organized and established a network to strengthen communication between the commercial sector and the police. This has provided a mechanism to disseminate important information relative to suspects, methods of operations, and crime prevention suggestions. The coordination of the crime prevention efforts with these businesses will be enhanced by a Crime Prevention Officer position approved in the 2011 Crime Prevention and Control District. Overall, Part I Crime decreased by 11% in 2011 as compared to the previous year.

Advances were also made in the residential areas with increases in Neighborhood Watch programs and citizen involvement. Volunteers contributed over 1,044 hours making warrant calls, conducting handicap parking enforcement, and assisting in other departmental operations. More involvement is seen in 2012 for volunteers as the department implements its Volunteer Victim Assistance Program designed to provide better service to victims of crime and keep them more informed about their case status and services available to them.

Even though strides have been made in making Deer Park a safer place to live, work, and visit, challenges still exist and will be addressed in the coming years. As demonstrated by the 2010 census, and seen in everyday operations, the demographics of Deer Park are shifting. The department will continue its efforts in hiring bilingual employees, and providing training to ensure all sections of the community have equal access to police partnerships. To address increasing numbers of calls for service at apartments and other multi-housing locations, the department will implement a Multi-housing crime abatement program designed to bring apartment managers and the police, public works, fire, and other agencies into a partnership to more closely screen applicants for housing, manage problematic tenants, and address environmental factors present in the housing locations.



Assistant Chief of Police Kenneth W. Findley

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Division, otherwise known as “Patrol,” is under the direction of Lieutenant Wade Conner, a 22 year veteran with Deer Park. Lieutenant Conner took over command of the Division in October of 2010. The Community Services Division is further supervised by six Patrol Sergeants and one Traffic Sergeant who are responsible for directing officers in their need to identify and correct problems in our city. The Division is committed to maintaining a partnership with the community to jointly address problematic areas. It is further committed to using this same partnership in order to identify possible future issues in order to continue to keep the City of Deer Park a safe place to live.

Community Services is the largest and most visible component in the Department. In addition to responding to calls for service, the division is responsible for traffic enforcement, affecting arrests, filing criminal charges, completing initial crime scene investigations, and neighborhood problem solving.



An example of the programs and achievements attributed to the Community Services Division during 2011 are:

**Business Watch Program-** The Business Watch program is a program designed to combine the knowledge of the citizens of Deer Park and the Police Department by using various forms of communication (meetings, emails, telephone calls etc) in order to form a group effort in combating crime at businesses. The initial organization resulted in 136 businesses in the Deer Park area joining the program. One particular industrial area was experiencing a great deal of copper theft. After the open communication began with these businesses, several businesses in the area posted night lighting around their businesses, removed shrubbery and posted video surveillance cameras to assist in securing their businesses at night. The Deer Park Police Department further increased patrols and in a short time arrested four different groups of criminals committing the burglaries for the copper. Since the drive to stop this crime, no further thefts have been reported in the immediate area.

**Lock Take and Hide Sign Program** – In hopes of reducing burglary of motor vehicle complaints, signs were distributed to burglary of motor vehicle problem areas in the City that reminded patrons to Lock their cars, take their keys, and hide their belongings.

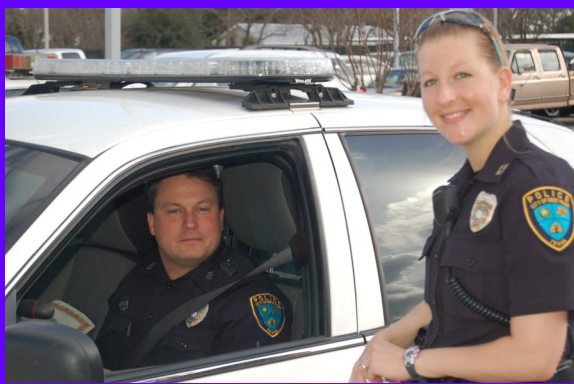
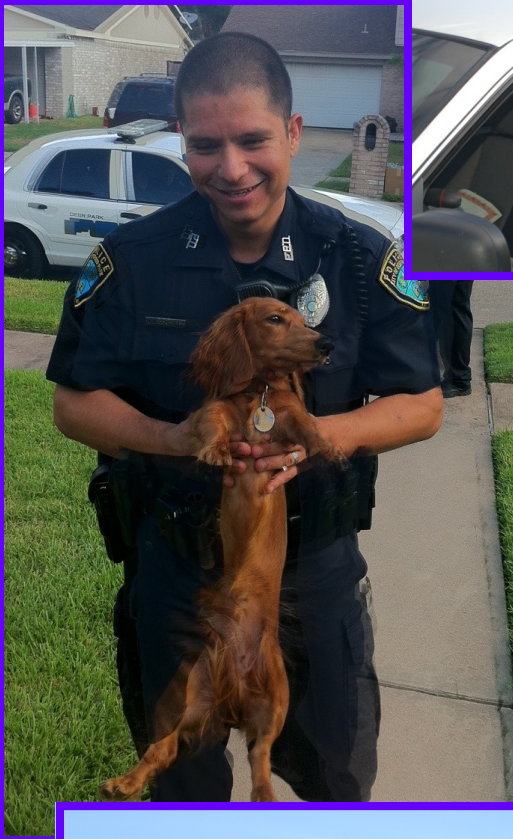
**Lock Box Program-** As the population ages, it is becoming more and more common for the elderly to fall or to suffer from illnesses that incapacitate them. This often delays their access to emergency health care. To improve response, the department developed a program to facilitate entry into the home. The program was designed to be a hide-a-key program for elderly citizens. It involves the citizen making a request for a lock box to be placed at their home. The citizen further provides a key to be placed in the lock box. The Beat Officer then delivers the lock box to the citizen's residence and places the lock box in a secure out of the way area. The Police Department is the only one with the combination to the lock. If an officer responds to this residence and cannot gain access due to the incapacitation of the citizen, they are able to use the combination to obtain the key. This will enable the officer to gain access to the home in a timely fashion without causing damage to a door or other entry point.

**Public Service Announcements** – Four public service announces were choreographed, filmed and subsequently released for viewing. These announcements were beneficial in notifying our citizens of the various programs offered by the Police Department. More videos will continue to be developed to address contemporary issues. These videos are aired on the local DPTV Channel 16 and on the City of Deer Park website.

**The Mentor Program for Future Supervisors** - Conducted over the past year. During this time three police officers and one civilian employee went through the program and received advanced training in leadership, human resources, policy and ordinance writing, as well as other topics. They received this additional training in order to better equip them in the future as new supervisors. By providing them with this knowledge they will be better prepared to lead the Department toward providing the utmost service to the citizens of Deer Park.

These are just a few examples of partnership commitments between the Deer Park Police and our citizens in order to reduce crime.

*"The backbone of our nation's domestic defense against terrorist attacks will continue to be the men and women in local law enforcement and emergency services." - Saxby Chambliss*



# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The Deer Park Police Department along with the Deer Park Independent School District have come together to build an alliance in the community by placing an emphasis on the safe and healthy environment for our children to prosper during their learning endeavor. This alliance has brought about the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, which provides the highest quality of police service in order to improve the quality of life for the students and faculty of the schools of Deer Park. This program, which has increased to four officers, has helped strengthen and solidify an already outstanding relationship between the School District and the Police Department. These officers continue to develop relationships with the children while working together with the School District to identify and resolve issues affecting public safety in our schools and community. The SRO shall be contacted for all on-campus responses and have the discretion afforded them through the Deer Park Police Department Departmental Rules and Procedures as to what enforcement action is taken when a law is violated. We are happy to be a partner with the Deer Park Independent School District and hope to have a successful program for years to come.

In 2011, the SRO's consisted of Jack Bounds, Doug Nettles, Norman Pocs and Del Wilcoxson. Wilcoxson replaced Jason LaPoint who returned to Patrol after 11 years as an SRO. The SRO's made 15 arrests and wrote approximately 121 school related citations. Additionally, Officer Pocs wrote approximately 90 traffic citations.



*"I'm convinced that every boy, in his heart, would rather steal second base than an automobile." - Tom Clark*



L to R: Officers Jack Bounds, Doug Nettles, Sgt. Earl Morrison, Norman Pocs, Del Wilcoxson

# FIELD TRAINING OFFICER PROGRAM

The Field Training Program saw five new officers come through the program this year. Officers V. Minor and R. Coats came through at the beginning of the year and finished in May and were assigned to their shifts. Officers M. Gonzalez, A. Gonzales and C. Turner came through in the later part of the year and were assigned to their perspective shifts, M. Gonzalez and A. Gonzales in October and C. Turner in November. This year was very challenging due to the implementation of the second phase of the mentoring program. Officer Blanchat was assigned as a participant in that program and due to new births and illnesses, we were down to having only four FTO's training three Probationary Police Officers. This caused a unique situation in that three Officers had to rotate from day shift to night shift in order to train them on each shift. However, as always, this unit pulled together and achieved the mission.



***“You cannot be disciplined in great things and undisciplined in small things. Brave undisciplined men have no chance against the discipline and valor of other men. Have you seen a few policemen handle a crowd?”***  
***General George S. Patton Jr***

# MENTOR PROGRAM

The Deer Park Police Department has begun the second phase of a three phase mentor program. The first phase was designed to give a new officer guidance and instruction from the time they ended their Field Training Program through their first year of employment. This guidance varies and deals with personal issues, paperwork issues, and any new concerns connected to employment as a first-year police officer. Upon completion of the FTO program each officer is assigned a Mentor Officer who basically guides each participant through their first year of employment. This program recognizes that each new officer is new to the Deer Park Police Department and will need guidance on everyday functions that more seasoned officers take for granted. The Mentor further assists the new employee through procedural issues and assists in making the officer aware of various practices and procedures that the Deer Park Police Department follows.

The second phase began April 1, 2011 and is designed to provide future prospective Supervisors the advanced training needed to transition, when promoted. This training includes First Line Supervisor training, EEOC / Human Resources, community policing, and hiring process among many other topics. Each candidate is further provided with the opportunity to take on a Departmental project from the beginning to the end. The projects have varied from writing city ordinances to present to City Council to introducing new ways to promote the Police Department and the Beat Officers.

This second phase was opened to all employees of the Police Department who have ambitions to becoming a supervisor in their future. Four employees (Three police officers and one civilian) were chosen to begin the program by seniority. They attend this additional training each month. It was designed to recognize that many times, new supervisors are promoted and expected to understand all areas of their new position. The program will cushion this expectation in that each candidate will have more advanced training in supervision.

The third phase of the mentor program is still under development but will be designed to prepare Supervisors to promote to mid and upper management.



**2011 PARTICIPANTS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MENTOR PROGRAM**

# TRAFFIC UNIT

The most common complaint for our city involves traffic problems such as speeders, reckless drivers, accidents, etc. The Deer Park Police Department-Traffic Unit consists of one Sergeant, two traffic officers, 21 Crossing Guards and 5 Substitute Crossing Guards.

The function of the Traffic Unit is to reduce the number of traffic-related calls for service as well as reduce the number of motor vehicle accidents within the city. This is done with the philosophy of Enforcement, Education, and Engineering under the umbrella of problem solving with fellow patrol officers and the community.

Selective Traffic Enforcement or S.T.E.P. as it is known is an integral part of the traffic enforcement efforts. This involves targeting specific problem locations that have a very low compliance rate and/or high accidents, and then adding officer presence and enforcement. Another large part of the Traffic Unit is the Crossing Guards who are out there every school day helping our children get to and from school safely. The Deer Park Traffic Unit continues its efforts to work proactively with the community on speeding issues by deploying a radar trailer to problem areas. This radar trailer flashes “slow down” messages at violators and activates red and blue “police” lights to remind motorists of the speed limit. Along with this, officers regularly sign out a handheld police radar for citizens to gauge speeding problems on their neighborhood streets and collect information for officers to use for future enforcement efforts.



TRAFFIC OFFICERS D. BODE & C. AURELIUS

The Traffic Unit is also known to work with other entities to achieve the overall objective of making Deer Park a safer community. The most notable of the Public Information and Education (PI&E) activities engaged in by the Traffic Unit is performing car seat inspections with the Safe Kids Greater Houston Coalition/ Texas Children Hospital. Finally, this year, the Traffic Unit also worked on numerous projects with the City of Deer Park Public Works/ Traffic Engineering Department (having traffic signs placed in problem areas), Texas Department of Transportation (STEP Speeding and Impaired Driving Mobilization –IDM Grants), the Deer Park Independent School District (Buckle Up Texas Campaign, and traffic flow problems adjacent to schools) and the Texas Traffic Institute (Report Impaired Drivers Campaign also known as RID). Report Impaired Drivers is a public education initiative being piloted by the Texas Traffic Institute in Deer Park in an effort to reduce driving while intoxicated (DWI)-related crashes in Deer Park and Harris County. This program’s goals include educating and engaging the people of Deer Park in identifying and reporting potentially impaired drivers. This is a three-year initiative that began in 2010. The partnership also includes the Texas Department of Transportation. The Deer Park Police Department has provided DWI data, and it has enlisted its officers and volunteers to help distribute information, make a Public Service Announcement video, and provide focus groups for some of the research- for more information, logon to [www.reportimpaireddrivers.org](http://www.reportimpaireddrivers.org).

"I'm sorry officer for speeding, but without my glasses I can't hardly see the speedometer!"



# HONOR GUARD



Throughout the year, the Deer Park Police Honor Guard represents the City of Deer Park by providing proper courtesies to the flag at ceremonies that involve dignitaries within our community. The primary purpose of the Deer Park Honor Guard is to provide proper funeral honors for fallen officers. Other duties include paying proper respect at funerals for current or former dignitaries or public servants whose families request it.

The Honor Guard is composed of officers within the Department who are interested in representing the Police Department at high profile functions. They are screened for their sincere desire to represent the

Department. Furthermore, they are evaluated on their willingness and ability to learn the drill and ceremony aspects of the position and to present a positive image to the public.

The Deer Park Honor Guard represents the City of Deer Park in numerous ceremonies throughout the year. Sadly, in 2011, the Honor Guard was called upon to provide casket guard duty for Deer Park City Councilman Charles Garrison who passed away on February 9, 2011. Also, the Honor Guard attended funerals for area Police Officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Other events for the Honor Guard included:

- Providing the Firing Party/ Volley Salute at the Patriots Day Ceremony on September 10, 2011 hosted by the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce, Deer Park I.S.D. and the Deer Park American Legion Post 319.
- Presenting the colors at the Deer Park State of the City Address;
- Presenting the colors at the Rotary Club Annual Banquet;
- Assisting the Deer Park Independent School District with Veteran's Day Ceremonies;
- Hosting the Deer Park- Peace Officer Memorial Service. This event coincides with National Peace Officer Memorial Week in the month of May and is attended by police officers and dignitaries from around the area. It is open to the public, and it is meant to pay tribute to all fallen officers with the posting the colors/ the National Anthem, a Mayoral Proclamation, wreath presentation, and a 21 Gun Salute and taps.

## 2011 Honor Guard members:

**Sgt. J. White**  
**Sgt. F. Hart**  
**Officer S. Guimbellot**  
**Officer N. Thatcher**  
**Officer C. Aurelius**  
**Officer M. Moore**

**Sgt. S. Hershey**  
**Sgt. C. Brown**  
**Officer S. Baumann**  
**Officer W. Chaffin**  
**Officer D. Bode**  
**Officer K. Yang**



# CROSSING GUARDS

Many of our school children are able to get to school safely each day due to a cooperative effort with the Deer Park Police Department, Deer Park and LaPorte Independent School Districts, and a few of our brave citizens who work part time to be Crossing Guards at 21 locations throughout our City. This program is an integral part of the Police Department's overall goal of public safety for our community. Having to brave the elements and moving traffic is not as easy as it looks sometimes. Ask any of them, and they can attest to the lack of attention of some drivers out there, and you will definitely here a war story or two regarding this topic.

Along with their basic task of getting the children across the street safely, they also provide some extra eyes and ears out in our community to keep the children safe, and they help out with parades and events throughout the year. Without them, many students would be deprived of the option to walk to and from school. All Crossing Guards receive monthly departmental safety and briefing training on topics such as shelter in place procedures, and traffic safety issues. They also are American Heart Association -CPR/ AED trained.

Every year the Deer Park American Legion Post 319 recognizes a Crossing Guard of the Year, and at the close of each school year, all Crossing Guards are invited to a City sponsored appreciation luncheon.

Congratulations go to the 2011 Crossing Guard of the year, Elma "Snooks" Nygaard.



**AMERICAN LEGION CROSSING GUARD OF 2011  
ELMA "SNOOKS" NYGAARD**

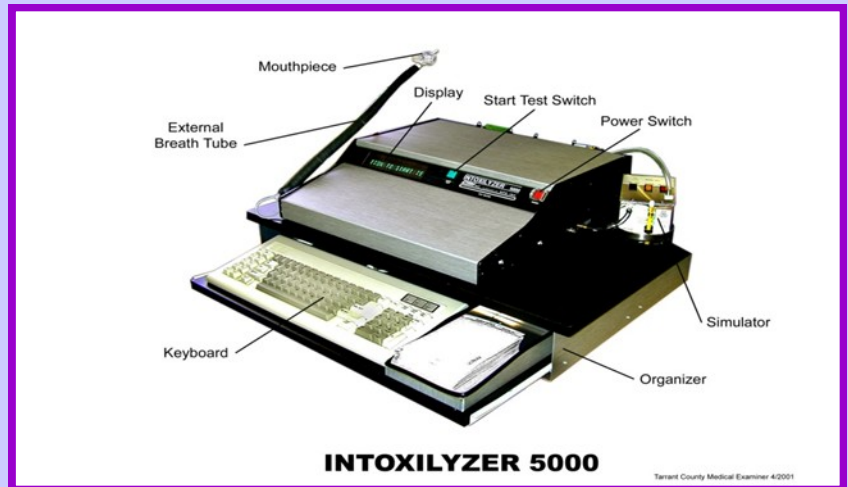


# BREATH TEST PROGRAM

The Deer Park Police Department DWI Breath Test Program was initiated in 2000. The increase in the population of the City along with the increase in the number of DWI arrests led to the need for the Deer Park Police Department to have an Intoxilyzer instrument to be used to measure the alcohol concentration of a person who has consumed ethyl alcohol. Once a subject has been arrested for Driving While Intoxicated that person is given the opportunity to provide a breath specimen to be measured by the Intoxilyzer 5000 instrument to determine his or her ethyl alcohol concentration.

The program was initiated and is maintained by Officer T. A. Taylor, the Technical Supervisor over the program. The program is certified through the Texas Department of Public Safety. The Scientific Director, Mack Cowan, sets high forensic standards for the program. The instrument is used by the Breath Test Operators who use the Intoxilyzer 5000 to run evidential breath tests on subjects in custody for DWI.

The Breath Test Operators for 2011 were:  
M. S. Anderson, C. K. Aurelius, J. L. Blanchat,  
D. M. Bode, C. D. Brown, J. D. Cooper,  
J. R. Hill, J. T. Meredith, J. Reed, M. A. Salas,  
D. N. Wilcoxson, and K. Yang.



This link will provide further information about Texas Breath Testing: [OperatorManualrev0306sec.pdf](#)

The instrument is located inside the Deer Park Police Department jail and is secured in a locked cabinet. A monthly inspection is performed by the Technical Supervisor, along with an annual inspection by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The Technical Supervisor is recertified twice a year and is responsible for the recertification of the Breath Test Operators every year. In 2011, the instrument was used 199 times.



Technical Supervisor, Tina Taylor

Senate Bill 74 of the 61st Legislature in 1969 provides that analysis of a person's breath to determine alcohol concentration must be performed according to methods approved by the Texas Department of Public Safety and by an individual possessing a valid certificate issued by the Department for this purpose. This bill also authorized the Department of Public Safety to approve satisfactory techniques or methods, to ascertain the qualifications and competence of individuals to conduct such analysis, and to issue certificates certifying such fact. In order to carry out the provisions of this bill, the Texas Department of Public Safety promulgated the Texas Breath Alcohol Testing Regulations contained in **Texas Administrative Code Title 37 Chapter 19**. The Department has created the Office of the Scientific Director, DPS Crime Laboratory, to administer these regulations and qualifications. All analyses by state, county, and city law enforcement officials are performed in accordance with these regulations which require either the certification or approval of all aspects of forensic breath alcohol testing. These analyses are conducted in over 400 approved testing facilities by one of approximately 6000 certified breath test operators representing some 700 different law enforcement agencies.

# **K-9 PROGRAM**

**“In November of 2010, K9 Ty, a 1 1/2 year-old black Labrador retriever, was put into service as the Department’s new narcotics canine. Ty had big shoes to fill as he was replacing K9 Charly, who had a very successful career serving the department for nine years.**

**Ty has successfully passed national certification with the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association and the National Police Canine Association. Ty continues to improve on his detection work monthly and he has "won me over" with his drive, determination, and athletic ability.**

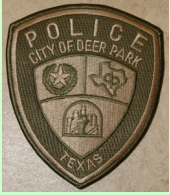


**Officer E. Pereira with K-9 Ty**

**Ty had a successful first year with the Department helping seize over \$30,000 in U.S. Currency, 20 lbs of marijuana, 2 ounces of cocaine, 26 grams of meth, and numerous tablets and pills of prescription medication. Ty competed in the NNDDA National Competition in April, 2011, in Angleton ,Texas, and he placed 49th out of 156 dogs that competed.**

**Hopefully, in 2012 Ty will make the top ten and continue the success Charly had with making the top ten list at the nationals seven straight years in a row.”**

**K-9 Officer E. J. Pereira**



# SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (S.W.A.T.)



The Special Weapons And Tactics Team (S.W.A.T) is comprised of seven officers and two sergeants. S.W.A.T Team members are selected through a vigorous and demanding selection process that involves a physical fitness assessment, oral interview and basic weapon skills. Once selected for the team, the member will complete a 40-60 hour Basic S.W.A.T School where he/she will be given the basic knowledge and skills needed for the position.

The concept of the Team is the resolution of high risk situations through the use of highly trained officers and specialized equipment. The members of the Deer Park S.W.A.T team train in the resolution of barricaded subjects, hostage rescue, high risk warrant service, and dignitary protection.

The main goal of the Deer Park SWAT Team is to provide effective emergency actions in response to critical incidents within the City of Deer Park.

**"The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence."**

**- Robert Peel**





**HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS (L to R):  
OFFICERS D. ROUEN, S. JOHNSON, J. BOUNDS, I. SAWTELL, N. THATCHER**

The Deer Park Police Department's Crisis Negotiation Team is utilized to resolve special threat situations such as suicide attempts, barricaded suspects and hostage incidents through the process of specialized negotiation techniques. The primary goal of the team is to bring these types of situations to a peaceful resolution, thus reducing loss of life and harm to citizens and officers.

The Team is comprised of five members. Sergeant Rouen is the Team Commander and serves with four team members, including Officer Johnson, Detective Sawtell, Officer Bounds, and Officer Thatcher as negotiators. All members of the team attend extensive continuing education and are required by the department to train once a month to maintain proficiency. Monthly training is usually in the form of a simulated incident and is routinely conducted in conjunction with the Department's SWAT team or with other area police negotiation teams. Most of our members attend an annual training conference that is presented by the Texas Association of Hostage Negotiators and the Federal Bureau of Investigations which focuses on recent issues relevant to negotiations. All of the team members are currently "certified" by the International Association of Hostage Negotiation and the Public Agency Training Council. The Team also has advisors available to them from the Houston Police Department, the FBI, and the mental health community should they be needed.



"Law enforcement officers are never 'off duty.' They are dedicated public servants who are sworn to protect public safety at any time and place that the peace is threatened. They need all the help that they can get." - Barbara Boxer



On September 7, 8, and 9, the Deer Park Police Department participated in the Deer Park LEPC (DPLEPC) full scale drill. The drill simulated a pipeline rupture on West San Augustine spilling large amounts of crude oil into the streets, drains, and sewers of the City. To make matters worse, the simulation further included the oil making its way through the drainage system to the Houston Ship Channel, and at one point actually igniting, burning down Mayor Riddle's house, among others.

This exercise was a culmination of a three year progressive exercise providing annual training for "All Hazards" planning for all affected personnel. The same simulated incident was utilized all three years so that attention could be paid to the execution of the process rather than worrying about details of the situation. The exercise began as a table top exercise with limited DPLEPC and City of Deer Park participation in 2009, expanding participation and spreading participants out over multiple locations for a functional exercise in 2010. This final iteration was a three day full scale exercise in 2011 included an estimated 500 participants from over 25 organizations. The drill was designed to improve the inter-jurisdictional collaborative response of the governmental and non-governmental participants of the DPLEPC, to reinforce the importance of collaborative management in multijurisdictional emergencies, and to ensure understanding of the NIMS ICS structure and roles of the involved participants. The objectives of the drill were to:

- Improve communication between various components and levels of participants
- Exercise the ability of EOC and Unified Command to stay in their respective ICS roles
- Test the Pipeline Response Plan
- Exercise the preparation of an Incident Action Plan (IAP) to present to on-coming shift

Through the lessons of this drill, we were able to exercise our personnel, all of the various ICS components, NIMS, EOC/UC interface, and collaborative emergency management. The many hours spent preparing for this exercise, and the many hours spent during the exercise were a great benefit to all participants.

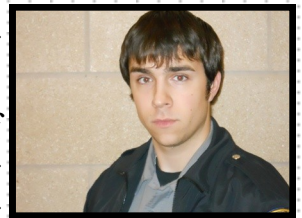
Next year we begin a new drill cycle, starting with a table top exercise with a new incident to manage. It will be difficult to have a more successful drill then we had this year, but we will do our best to continue our efforts and continue our pursuit for excellence in emergency management for the City and citizens of Deer Park.



# PUBLIC SAFETY ATTENDANTS



Public Safety Attendants (PSA) are responsible for receiving, processing, and monitoring all incoming prisoners for the police department or other agencies as needed. This includes searching the prisoner, inventory of property, taking of photographs and fingerprints, and completion and filing of related reports and documents. Routine duties include preparing prisoner meals, obtaining medical attention, and maintaining proper care of prisoner property and records.



Joseph Sheffield



Oskar Tatuaka

PSAs perform required inspections for the holding facility for safety, supplies, security and sanitation. They assist in the arraignment of detainees with the Municipal Judge and arrange transfers to other facilities. They processed 2,651 adults and 35 juvenile detainees for 2011. PSAs are cross-trained and are capable of taking non-emergency phone calls in the communications center when no detainees are in the

holding facility. They are also responsible for fingerprinting members of the public for purposes of job application requirements. They make citizen contacts by providing personal service to individuals who have responded to the lobby of the police facility with a question or other non-emergency requests.



Chris Matczak



Celeste Cooper

During 2011, there were six Public Safety Attendants: C. Cooper, J. Sheffield, C. Matczak, O. Tatuaka, T. Wells (not shown), and E. Salazar, who transferred to the property & evidence area in the latter part of the year.



Eddie Salazar

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Criminal Investigative Division is under the command of Acting Detective Lieutenant Ian Sawtell. During the 2011 calendar year Sawtell was given command of the division and all the responsibilities there in. The Criminal Investigation Division is made up of three separate units that must all function as one, the Detective Unit, the Crime Scene Unit, and the Evidence/ Property Unit.

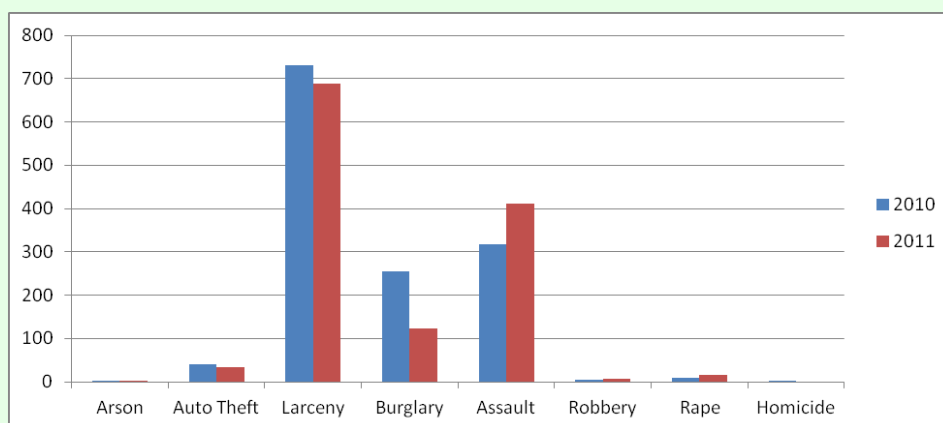
## Detective Unit

The Detective Unit is made up of four Detectives, one of whom specializes in sexual crimes against children. The Detective Unit's primary goal is to conduct follow-up investigations where a case is serious in nature or there is a reasonable

expectation of being solved. The Detective Unit works crimes ranging from small thefts to homicides. Detectives receive specialized training in all aspects of case investigation, and work closely with the community, Patrol Officers, other local and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Each Detective is assigned a particular section of the City referred to as "Sectors," and has primary responsibility for crimes that occur in that area. The Detective Unit followed-up over 700 cases during the 2011 calendar year.



L to R: Acting Lt. Ian Sawtell, Detectives Scott Anderson, Jarrett Hill, Chad Banogon, Jason Meredith



## PART I OFFENSE TOTALS

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>% of change</u>
Arson	1	1	no change
Auto Theft	40	33	-18%
Larceny	731	689	-6%
Burglary	256	122	-52%
Assault	317	412	+30%
Robbery	5	7	+40%
Rape	8	15	+88%
Homicide	3	0	-100%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1279</b>	<b>down by 11%</b>

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

## Crime Scene Unit

The Deer Park Police Department's Crime Scene Unit consists of a licensed police officer who has specialized training and skills in aspects of processing all types of crime scenes. The Crime Scene Investigator's main area of responsibility is the processing of all major crime scenes. Each patrol shift also consists of an officer(s) specifically trained in crime scene processing and serves in a "back-up" role to the Crime Scene Investigator. Processing a crime scene may include taking photographs, sketching the crime scene, locating patent and latent evidence such as fingerprints, footwear impressions, hair, fibers and biological matter.



Investigator/ CSI Officer Jarrett Hill

## Property and Evidence Unit

The Deer Park Police Department's Property Division consists of a Public Safety Attendant who is certified as Evidence Custodian and has extensive training in all aspects of properly managing a Police Property/Evidence Room. The Evidence Custodian's main areas of responsibility include, but are not limited to, the storage, security, destruction, proper packaging, and documentation of all incoming and outgoing evidence and property. The Evidence Custodian is also responsible for getting items to the proper labs for analysis. The Evidence Custodian provides copies of case documents, videos, and photos as requested by the District Attorney's Office and also conducts research to determine the final disposition of cases.



Evidence and property that was seized will be destroyed, sold at auction, converted to city use, or returned to its owner, depending upon the conclusion of the case and its disposition. The property room holds approximately 20,000 pieces, which are under the care, custody, and control of the Evidence Custodian at all times. The Crime Scene Investigator also carries the role of Evidence Custodian and all responsibilities therein.



Evidence Custodian Mike Ramos

# ALARM COORDINATOR

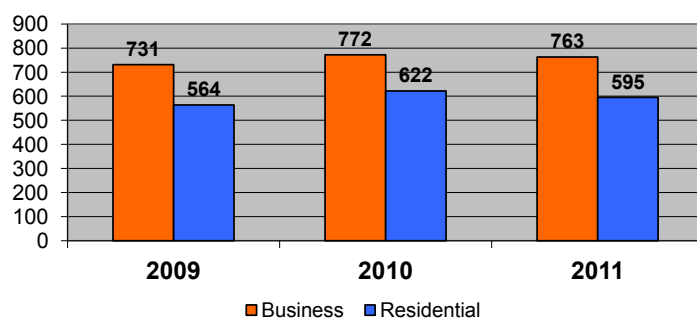
The Alarm Coordinator position was established in April of 2007 and with this came the administration and enforcement for this newly amended city alarm ordinance being transferred from the Utilities Department to the Police Department. With this transfer came the responsibility for issuance, invoicing, and collection of alarm permits and renewal fees and invoicing for excessive false alarms fees.

Daily duties include review of all alarm events, determination of billing status, and transfer of alarm event information from the dispatchers CAD system into the CryWolf alarm tracking software. Additional duties are reviewing alarm permit applications and generating permit number accounts, formal permits, and “shadow” permit account numbers for non-registered alarm locations, pending receipt of formal applications and required fees. Additionally the Alarm Coordinator duties are to make contact with locations with excessive false alarm to offer information in attempt to reduce the number of false alarms, which lead to costly fees to business and residents, and create safety issues for responding officers and the unnecessary and costly use of city assets.

The Alarm Coordinator in conjunction with beat officers attend both business and residential watch meetings to assist concerned businesses and citizens in the crime fighting posture, and speaks at Citizen Police Academy Classes.

During 2011, the Alarm Coordinator saw an increase in the number of alarm permit applications, which follows that some increase in the numbers of alarm activations should be expected.

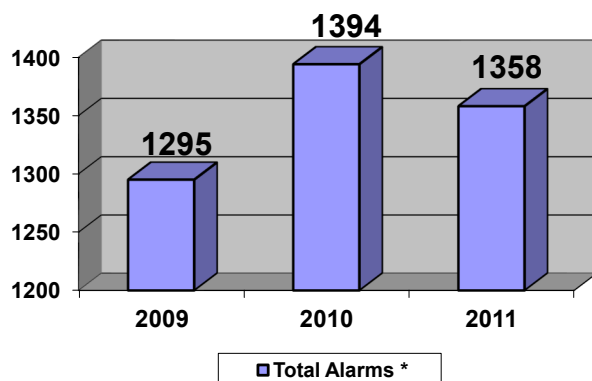
Alarm Calls



Alarm calls are typically the most frequent type of incident to which the Deer Park Police Department officers respond. Not including fire alarm calls, there was a total of 1,358 alarm calls accounting for 8.5% of all calls for service during the year.

There were a number of alarm events cancelled (394) by alarm companies who followed proper verification procedures.

The overwhelming majority (98%) of alarms in 2011 were false or unfounded.



## Percentage change in total alarm calls

2009 – 17.7% **decrease** from previous year

2010 – 7.6% **increase** over 2009

2011 – 2.6% **decrease** from 2010

\* Total does not include “Fire Alarms”



Officer M. Howard,  
Alarm Coordinator

# CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizen's Police Academy (CPA), which is coordinated by the Community Liaison, is a condensed version of a basic police academy. Police officers, dispatchers, and other police employees who are experts in their respective areas of law enforcement instruct the classes. The participants are local citizens who are interested in learning about the inner workings of the Police Department.

The CPA is held one night a week for a period of 14 weeks (42 hours). Students learn about law enforcement related issues such as criminal law, traffic law, crime prevention techniques, dispatch dexterity exercises, use of force, self-defense tactics, firearm safety, crisis negotiations and SWAT team operations. Students also participate in reverse role scenarios such as family disturbances and traffic stops.

Learning also takes place through hands on activities such as patrol ride-a-longs, lifting and taking fingerprints, shooting simunitions, Fatal Vision Goggles, and much more.



**2011 CPA PARTICIPANTS (FALL)**

Additionally, CPA graduates may join an Alumni Association, (DPCPAAA), which supports the police department with volunteer services. The alumni assists in coordinating new CPA classes, and having promotional drives to obtain applications for new students for future academies. They also participate in the handicapped parking program, feed the officers on holidays and volunteer their time to assist various units of the Police Department.

A major benefit of the CPA is the camaraderie formed between the officers and citizens of our city.





# VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING

In 2011, the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) volunteers logged a total of 1,044.47 hours with the Police Department. Their volunteer time was spent making warrant calls, working traffic control for parades, assisting in evidence and property, helping with the Peace Officers Memorial, miscellaneous clerical duties around the department and much, much more.

The 1,044.47 volunteer hours posted during 2011 provided a value of \$22,310.00 for the City of Deer Park.

We are so proud of our volunteers and the effort they put forth for the police department. We realize that as the volunteer program continues to grow so does our love for having our volunteers around. We enjoy each of their distinctive personalities, their diligence to get the job done and their perseverance to keep coming back.



CPA Alumni & Volunteers (L to R):  
Liddy Korb, Dee Dee Brumley, Peggy Humphrey,  
Larry Hernandez, Don Brown

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out 2011 was highly successful. Deer Park citizens and businesses hosted a total of 35 National Night Out parties. National Night Out is a National Crime Prevention effort sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, designed to bring neighbors together to help ward off would be criminals by showing a united front. The fun began with party hosts inviting their neighbors to come out and join the celebration. Neighbors and businesses alike came together to enjoy good food, good company and visits from Deer Park Police Officers as well as members of City Council and the Fire Department.



"Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is equally true is that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on."  
- Robert Kennedy

# **EMPLOYEE AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS**

## **Officer of the Month for 2011**

January	Officer Jason L. LaPoint
February	Officer Stacey D. Badgett
March	Officer Joshua D. Reed
April	Detective Chad-Edward B. Banogon
May	Detective Jason T. Meredith
June	Officer David M. Bode
July	Detective M. Scott Anderson
August	Officer Jarrett R. Hill
September	Detective Jason T. Meredith
October	Officer Chase R. Turner
November	Officer Veronika K. Minor
December	Officer Mason W. Moore

## **Officer of the Year for 2011**

Detective Jason Meredith

## **Rotary Officer of the Month for 2011**

February	Officer Jason L. LaPoint
May	Officer Stacey D. Badgett
November	Detective Chad E. Banogon

# **EMPLOYEE AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS**

## **American Legion Officer(s) of the Year**

**Detective M. Scott Anderson  
Detective Jason T. Meredith  
Detective Chad Banogon  
Officer Jarrett Hill**

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## **Supervisor of the Month**

<b>January</b>	<b>Captain Sharon Massey</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Sgt. Joseph Cooper</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Acting Lt. Ian J. Sawtell</b>

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## **Supervisor of the Year**

**Acting Lieutenant Ian J. Sawtell**

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## **Employee of the Month**

<b>March</b>	<b>Esperanza H. Buck</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Mike Ramos</b>

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## **American Legion School Crossing Guard of the Year**

**Elma Nygaard**

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# **CREDITS**

Sheila Plovanich and I have been working together to compile the Department's Annual Report for several years now. This year, however, we had the pleasure of assistance lent from two of our co-workers, Kellie Bass and Kathy Cobb. With their addition came some new ideas, like using old photos of long time employees and the Police Officer's Memorial page. Additionally, Kellie helped with snapping pictures throughout the year at various Departmental events, taking some of the work off Sheila's shoulders. Kathy also assisted with providing content, which is always the most difficult task of the report.

The four of us worked together to put this publication together and we hope you enjoy it, and maybe even laugh out loud at some of the photos! Please, we are always trying to think of ways to keep the report innovative and interesting, so don't hesitate to offer suggestions for our next year's report.

We also would like to thank the following people who also contributed content and/or photos:

**Jeri Martinez  
Richard Tew  
Bobby Vasquez**

**Enjoy!**

**Lucie Burkett**